

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7754

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR, IT, VT

SUBJECT: NEW ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, GIAN FRANCO POMPEI

1. GIAN FRANCO POMPEI, CURRENTLY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE, WILL BE THE NEXT ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, REPLACING AMBASSADOR Malfatti who will be returning to the FOREIGN MINISTRY AS SECRETARY GENERAL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT POMPEI WILL ARRIVE IN PARIS IN MID-NOVEMBER, 1977.

2. AMBASSADOR POMPEI IS WELL KNOWN TO THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE VATICAN AND TO THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR. HE IS A QUIET AND UNASSUMING MAN OF HIGH INTELLIGENCE AND OF ASTUTE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY. POMPEI IS A FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES.

3. THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO EMBASSY PARIS: AMBASSADOR POMPEI, SON OF AN ITALIAN DIPLOMAT, WAS BORN IN SETE, FRANCE ON JANUARY 31, 1915. HE GRADUTATED IN JURISPRUDENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TURIN IN 1937 AND ENTERED THE DIPLOMATIC CAREER IN 1939. HIS FIRST FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT WAS IN 1942 AS VICE CONSUL IN NEUCHATEL, SWITZERLAND. FOLLOWING TWO YEARS AS THIRD SECRETARY AT THE ITALIAN LEGATION IN BERN, FROM 1945-47, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY

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IN ROME. HE WENT TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS AS SECOND SECRETARY IN 1950, AND FROM 1953 TO 1966, HE SERVED AT THE EMBASSY IN PARIS AND AS ITALIAN DELEGATE TO THE UNESCO COUNCIL. IN 1966, HE RETURNED TO ROME TO SERVE AS DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ALDO MORO. IN 1968, HE SERVED AS HEAD OF CABINET OF FOREIGN MINISTER MORO. HE WAS ASSIGNED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE

HOLY SEE ON JULY 5, 1969. MRS. ILDE POMPEI, A NATIVE OF AUSTRIA, IS QUIET BUT VERY FRIENDLY. THE POMPEIS HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS AND ONE SON.

4. COMMENT: AS THE ABOVE BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ATTESTS, POMPEI IS A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT WHO ALSO SERVED IN HIGHLY SENSITIVE POLICY POSITIONS IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. HIS STEWARDSHIP OF THE ITALIAN EMBASSY TO THE HOLY SEE OCCURRED AT A PARTICULARLY DELICATE PERIOD OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS (INCLUDING THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM OF 1974, THE ABORTION ISSUE IN 1976, THE ONGOING, AND APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL, NEGOTIATIONS ON THE REVISION OF THE 1929 CONCORDAT, AND THE REASSERTION OF A MORE ACTIVE POLITICAL PROFILE BY THE CHURCH SINCE 1975. WE SHARE THE OPINION OF A WIDE SPECTRUM OF OBSERVERS THAT POMPEI HAS BEEN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE GOI AND THE VATICAN. THE U.S. MISSION TO THE VATICAN HAS HAD VERY CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE CONTACTS WITH HIM AND HIS STAFF FOR NEARLY SEVEN YEARS. POMPEI IN TERMS OF ITALIAN INTERNAL POLITICS HAS BEEN CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER MORO, WHO IS THE CURRENT LEADING STRATEGIST OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. IN FOREIGN POLICY TERMS, WE HAVE FOUND THAT, WHILE POMPEI FAVORS A UNITED EUROPE, HE ALSO FAVORS CONTINUING STRONG DEFENSE, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL LINKS WITH THE U.S. GARDNER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Executive Order: N/A
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